

Northeast IPM Center Participation by the NYS IPM Program, 2007

Lynn Braband, Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, Curt Petzoldt

Abstract: NYS IPM Program staff were actively involved with the Northeast IPM Center and related activities in 2007. Included were participation and leadership in the Center's Community IPM Working Group and the Northeast Research, Extension, Academic Program for IPM and submission of a proposal to establish a School IPM Implementation Working Group in the Northeast.

The Northeast IPM Center is a major vehicle for implementing IPM (including the distribution of USDA funds) in the northeastern United States. The Center utilizes IPM professionals and practitioners throughout the northeast to assist in its mission. To facilitate this, working groups have been established by the Center. In 2007 (and before), NYS IPM Program staff have been involved in leadership roles in these working groups

The Community IPM Working Group had a major role in organizing the first Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference in Manchester, NH during March 2005. Conference participants identified the development of "IPM outreach to homeowners, retailers of pest management products, and multipliers (media, libraries, teachers)" as the highest priority for Community IPM in the Northeast. In 2006, the Working Group sponsored three successful sessions on residential IPM at the Fifth National IPM Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri.

Building upon these previous interactions, the working group partnered with water quality professionals throughout the Northeast and organized the "Green-Blue Summit: Clean Water through Residential IPM". The summit was held July 18-19, 2007 at the Penn State Great Valley conference center in Malvern, PA. It was a workshop of leaders and decision makers in IPM and water quality. Impacts of lawn care and structural pest control practices on the environment were discussed. A marketing workshop aided in the creation and marketing methods of simple unified messages on environmental stewardship of residential lawn care and pest control. Plenary and turf session presentations were videotaped and are available on the YouTube web site at: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=6B31F9665D9AAB5E&page=1. Both the turf and structural sessions are being followed up with Northeast and national interaction.

The working group contributed to content of a series of educational posters that will be produced by the Pesticide Education Program at Penn State University for the Philadelphia Flower Show. The series will feature "bloopers" or common mistakes that residents make in the landscape. Several sets of the posters will be produced in a smaller size and distributed to Maryland, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and New York for use in field days and extension events. The purpose is to provide a teachable moment for extension personnel to initiate discussion with the public on how to do things right.

The Community IPM Working Group's proposed plan of work for 2008 includes:

1. Development of an outreach/communications plan to extend and develop novel ways of educating the public on implementing IPM in their homes, lawns, and landscapes. A pilot display will be developed and delivered at the U.S. Botanic Garden from Memorial Day through Columbus Day featuring educational posters from the Philadelphia Flower Show and priority messages from the Green-Blue Summit.

2. Organization, together with the Western IPM Center, of a national conference call series of people interested in pursuing the issue of residential structural pest management impacts on water quality and other environmental parameters.
3. Organization of several mini symposia or workshops and a roundtable for the Sixth National IPM Symposium, March 2009, Portland, Oregon.
4. Investigation of the possibility of organizing a follow-up to the successful Green-Blue Summit.

A New York State Program member (Petzoldt) worked with the Northeast IPM Center and others from around the US on developing a fact sheet for IPM and sustainable agriculture coordinators on IPM labeling and traceability. A draft is being circulated among some key stakeholders with the goal of having the document online and in hard copy by March.

In 2007, Petzoldt became chair-elect of the Northeast Research, Extension, Academic Program for IPM (NEREAP-IPM). The group's purpose is to improve cooperation and communication among land grant university personnel in the Northeast on IPM. The group works with the Northeast IPM Center on various projects such as the aforementioned labeling initiatives.

A member of the New York State IPM Program (Braband) worked with Kathy Murray of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources to submit a proposal to the Northeast IPM Center for the establishment of a School IPM Implementation Working Group in the Northeast. The overall goal will be to develop a working group that assists states in the Northeast to meet the National School IPM Management Strategic Plan's goal of IPM implementation in all schools by 2015. The objectives and impacts of the working group will be:

1. Organize a working group of diverse and representative school IPM stakeholders throughout the northeastern United States. Impact: Development of an infrastructure that effectively communicates with key school IPM stakeholders throughout the Northeast.
2. Cooperate with school IPM efforts throughout the United States. Impact: Efficient communication to limit unnecessary duplication of effort and facilitate sharing of successful strategies in school IPM implementation.
3. Serve as a multiplier of K - 12 IPM teaching and learning tools. Impact: Increased development, availability, and utilization of IPM curricula throughout the Northeast leading to improved understanding of IPM and its benefits.
4. Identify needs, opportunities, and priorities for research, extension, education, and implementation for school IPM in the Northeast. Impact: Communication with key school IPM stakeholders and funding organizations of priority topics and projects needed to facilitate and promote school IPM in the Northeast.
5. Develop a focused working group project for 2009. Impact: Implementation of a project with region-wide significance to the full implementation of school IPM.